ஆ. அறிக்கைகள், அறிவிப்புகள், ஏனைய தாள்கள்.

10. தமிழ்நாடு 1980 ஆம் ஆண்டு பச்சையப்பன் பொறுப் பாண்மைக் குழு (நிர்வாகத்தை மேற்கொள்ளுதல்) அவசரச் சட்டம். (தமிழ்நாடு அவசரச் சட்டம் எண். 14/1980.)

11. 1980 ஆம் ஆண்டு பொது வக்ஃப் (காலவரம்பை நீட்டித்தல்) தமிழ்நாடு திருத்த அவசரச் சட்டம். (தமிழ்நாடு அவசர சட்டம் எண். 15/1980.)

12. தமிழ்நாடு 1981 ஆம் ஆண்டு வரிசெலுத்த மறுக்க அல்லது நிறுத்தி வைக்கத் தூண்டுவதைத் தடுக்கும் (திருத்த) அவசரச் சட்டம் (தமிழ்நாடு அவசரச் சட்டம் எண். 1/1981.)

13. தமிழ்நாடு 1981 ஆம் ஆண்டு இன்றியமையாப் பணிகள் பராமரிப்பு அவசரச் சட்டம், (தமிழ்நாடு அவசரச் சட்டம் எண். 2/1981).

14. 1981 ஆம் ஆண்டு சனவரி திங்கள் 21 ஆம் தேதி யன்று சட்டமன்றத்தில் ஆளுநர் ஆற்றிய உரை (தமிழ், ஆங்கிலம்).

இணைப்பு I

(99-ம் பக்கத்திலுள்ள அடிக்குறிப்பைக் காண்க.)

Address by Thiru SADIQ ALI, governor of Tamil Nadu at the Joint session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative on 21st Jannary 1981,

Honourable Members of the Legislature,

I deem it a great privilege to meet all of you for the first time in this year. Let me take this opportunity of wishing you a very happy New Year and a very happy Pongal. Let us hope that the current year would usher in an era of prosperity and plenty to the people of Tamil Nadu.

2. The year has begun well with the Fifth World Tamil Conference having just been completed on a very happy note. Government had taken immense pains in drawing up a very well organised programme for holding this Conference in the ancient and historic city of Madurai. This opportunity has been availed of not only by the Tamil-knowing population of this State but also by the lovers of the language spread throughout the country, more especially by those coming from various countries of the world. Through this event, it has been made possible to re-live and to re-enact the greatness of Tamil history, the grandeur of Tamil culture and literature and also to show to the world the richness of Tamil heritage.

3. The State also had the signal honour of the Prime Minister of the country gracing the occasion on the final day, which marked the close of the Conference and which drew the appreciation from severa

lakhs of people. Addressing the huge gathering at Madurai on the 10th of this month, the Prime Minister assured the people of Tamil Nadu that Hindi would not be imposed on non-Hindi people. The Government and people of Tamil Nadu are very greatful to her for reiterating the assurance given by the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that Hindi would never be imposed on Tamil Nadu.

4. The participation of a very large number of foreigners from different countries of the world in the Tamil Conference, is a clear indication of the very great interest evinced by the foreigners in Tamil language. The State Government would request Government of India to grant scholarships liberally to foreign students visiting this country to learn Tamil and also to help this Government in sending Tamil teachers to foreign countries where the domiciled Tamilians wish to learn this language.

5. Government have also decided to establish a World Tamil Sangam with headquarters at Madurai. This organisation would be staffed by Tamil Scholars who will be undertaking intensive research work. This Sangam will function with complete academic autonomy and with its own branches in various parts of the world. Government will be making all efforts to implement the principle "Engum Tamil, Ethilum Tamil".

6. Another happy development has been the finalisation of the fltate's Sixth Five-Year Plan, recently in New Delhi. After a series of discussions between the Chief Minister and the Union Planning Minister, the State Plan has been fixed at Rs.3,150 crores which is almost three times as large as the Fifth Five-Year Plan Outlay of Rs. 1,122 crores. This is also Rs. 1,000 crores higher than the Rs. 2,150 crores figure envisaged earlier for the 1978–83 Draft Five-Year Plan. As against a 411-crore rupees State Plan for the year 1980–81, a 514-crore rupees Plan for 1981-82 has been accepted by the Planning Commission.

7. The State Government has been requesting the Government of India at various forums to increase the quantum of central assistance to the Plan Outlay. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, Central Plan assistance is now determined under what is popularly known as the "Gadgil formula". Even at the last National Development Council meeting in Delhi the Chief Minister had suggested that the present criteria under this formula for allocation of funds needed to be changed. In the discussions with the Planning Commission last month, it was reiterated that the backwardness of a State should be judged on the basis of percentage of population below poverty line and per capita

Plan outlay of the State instead of the per capita income concept. When the emphasisis for the elimination of poverty, it is hoped that the Government of India will accept these reasonable proposals.

8. Government views with concern the trend of spiralling prices and the consequent build-up of inflationary pressures. When there is inflation, wage increases are not really going to help them, as this would again refuel fire of inflation.Price increaseand wage increase seem to be following each other in a vicious circle. Further more not only such wage increases do not bring the desired benefits to this organised minority, but also it throws the unorganised large majority of people below poverty line such as hand-loom weavers, landless labourers, the village arisans, etc., into the grip of misery by further rise in prices. While the organised minority has some clout to get higher emoluments the hapless majority does not have this. Thus, it is the silent majority which suffers the most. It is very essential that this trend is arrested. In order that the essential commodities are made available at reasonable prices to all sections of the society, especially to the weaker sections first the public distribution system must be strenghened and next, there must be an all round increase in production of such items. Honourable Members are aware that the Government has already organised a fair price shop in every revenue village in our State, to strengthen the public distribution system. As for the increased production, my Government is of the view that the farmers must be given all forms of incentives such as higher procurement price, supply of inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, diesel, etc., at reasonable prices without causing any increase in the consumer price.

9. Agriculture, being the major contributory factor to the economy as a whole, forms the most important aspect of the rural economy. In order that not merely the land owning class but the weaker sections in the rural society such as small and marginal farmers, landless agricultural labourers, village artisans, etc., survive, they must be placed on a sound basis. One way of ensuring health in this sector is to fix a remunerptive price for their produce. Time and again, my Government has been insisting on the Government of India at almost all forums, to fix a price ensuring reasonable return to the farmers. Price of Rs. 130 per quintal for paddy and Rs. 200 per tonne for Sugar-cane have been urged by my Government. The Government of India however has fixed Rs. 105 per quintal as the procurement price for common variety of paddy and Rs. 130 per tonne as the statutory minimum price of Sugarcane. My Government, though still insisting on the Government of India to reconsider the above decisions, on its own has fixed price of Rs. 115 per quintal of paddy and Rs. 175 per tonne of Sugar-cane.

10. Keeping the interests of the agriculturists in mind, Government has undertaken a series of measures to help the small farmers who have not been able to repay the co-operative loans due to failure of rains and natural calamities. State Government had approached the Government of India for assistance to write off the loans atleast to the small farmers in respect of short term co-operative loans converted into medium term loans which were outstanding as on 31st March 1980. But this plea for assistance was not accepted by the Government of India. However, the State Government from its own funds, has accorded sanction for Rs. 42 crores for repaying to the co-operative societies, on behalf of the small farmers, the medium term conversion and medium term conversion rephasement loans with interest, including penal interest as on 31st March 1980. In case there are small farmers who owe money to the co-operative societies as on 31st March 1980 under the above conditions, and who have not been included in the earlier calculations, their loans also would be repaid by the State Government. There are some small farmers who had repaid loans of this nature to co-operative societies earlier. Government felt that the benefit given to the defaulters should accrue to this category of small farmers as well. The refund to be made to them will be adjusted towards the loans falling due against them during the year 1981-82.

11. My Government has also ordered waiving the collection of dues in respect of Takkavi loans. As a result of implementing this order as on 3rd December 1980, a sum of Rs. 20,61,50,077 has been written off benefiting about 9,17,559 agriculturists.

12. Even in spite of these liberal gestures by the Government from its meagre resources, a certain section of agriculturists has been indulging in no-tax compaign against the State Government, urging non-payment of current consumption charges, co-operative loans, taxes to the Government and to the local bodies, etc. When Government took steps to collect the current consumption charges from the agriculturists amounting to about Rs. 35 crores, the various associations of agriculturists and the political parties wanted a dialogue with the Government. My Government held consultations with the representatives from all such bodies twice and at their instance agreed to collect in easy instalments in the form of current dues and corresponding one month arrears, popularly known as 1+1 formula. It is unfortunate that a certain section of the agriculturists organised an agitation, stopping the supply iff essential commodities to the towns, thereby causing violence, loss so life and damage to property. In some places, milk and food were spolit by them. No Government can tolerate this type of activity letroeore, my Government took appropriate action to maintain law.

and order. I hope that wise counsel would prevail among them to see reason and rationale in the stand of Government in helping the agriculturists to the utmost extent.

13. Rainfall in the course of this year has been fairly satisfactory, though not plentiful. However, certain pockets in the districts of Pudukkottai and North Arcot have experienced drought conditions due to failure of monsoons. Government has acted immediately and authorised digging of new wells and deepening of old wells at a cost of Rs. 1·30 crores. In North Arcot district, Government has also ordered remission of land revenue where the crop yield is less than 50 per cent. Relief measures would be taken whereever similar drought conditions become marked.

14. Whenever help is to be provided to the agricultural sector, Government has always kept the interest of the small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers uppermost in its mind. This helpful and sympathetic attitude will be continued in the future also as a policy by this Government.

15. Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Second Amendment Bill, 1980, which has been passed by the State Legislature, has been sent to the Government of India for the assent of the President. When the Bill becomes anct, it will unearth transfers of land effected between 1st January 1958 and 6th April 1960, with a view to circumvent the then proposed legislation of land ceiling. Consequent on this Bill becoming an Act, surplus lands will be available for distribution among landless agricultural persons.

16. Irrigation forms an integral part of Agriculture. As the major river sources are almost exploited, in order to extend the area of irrigation, especially to help the drought-prone parts of Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli districts, my Government will hold talks shortly with the Government of Kerala for diverting some of the surplus waters from the West-flowing rivers. It is unfortunate that a settlement on Cauvery River water dispute is yet to be reached in spite of several meetings among the basin States for the last twelve years starting from the year 1968. I hope that at least this year, we would be able to arrive at an amicable solution in the best interest of Tamil Nadu.

17. Allied to Agriculture, is the field of Fisheries. Tamil Nadu is blessed with a long coastal line but the State has not had the good fortune of getting the maximum benefit from this natural gift. As an initial step, State Government has requested Government of India to undertake a study, to survey the fishery resources of the East Coast of India. Government of India has responded stating that this will be examined

As a further step, PAUT has been asked to work out comprehensive proposals for enabling a study to be made of the marine mining, marine environment, marine resources, etc., of the East Coast.

18. At the same time, in order to tap the fish wealth in the deeper portions of the sea, the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation has secured technical assistance from Government of India in identifying the type of deep sea fishing trawlers for different fishing areas and the agency from whom these are to be secured. All these measures undertaken by the Government would lead to a better utilisation of the marine resources of this State and would improve the living conditions of the fishermen.

19. Power, being an important infrastructure for economic development, it is proposed to make major investments in this sector in the Sixth Plan to the tune of Rs. 1,023 crores. Lower Mettur Hydel Scheme costing Rs. 89·71 crores and Mettur Thermal scheme costing Rs. 189·70 crores have already been sanctioned. More schemes will follow suit. However, at present there is a shortage of power necessitating 30 per cent cut on industries, which will be maintained at this level for this water year ending June 1981.

20. For stepping up industrialisation of the State and to create employment opportunities Government has been encouraging establishment of industries both in the private and public sectors. With the prospect of better availability of electricity, communication facilities, skilled manpower, etc., I hope that sufficient investments by the private sector can be attracted to our State. Government of India have been addressed to issue a licence for establishing a Sugar Mill with a crushing capacity of 1,250 tonnes of cane per day in the co-operative sector in Chengalpattu district. The Newsprint Project to be started in the public sector is also making headway and the Government of India, Planning Commission and World Bank are showing keen interest in this Project.

21. The progressive labour policy, followed by the Government has produced fruitful results The labour situation in the State was, by and large, satisfactory in 1980. Government is considering amending the Industrial Disputes Act, 1948 with reference to certain provisions on settlement under clause 12(3) of the Act and also in regard to launching of strikes, the approval for which should be backed by 60 per cent of the labour force. This is now before the Standing Committee on Labour Laws, whose recommendations are awaited.

22. The one problem that is looming large is that of B. and C. Mills involving about 13,000 families in Madras City. On the one hand, when the Government is going all out to create new job opportunities for the unemployed, it is really disheartening to notea situation, where even the existing employed is rendered jobless by the closure of this Mill. The State Government is doing its best to resolve this dispute. It is pertinent to point out that this is essentially a matter to be settled by the Government of India iovolving both the management and the workers.. They have convened a series of meetings. Government hope that before long this problem will be amicably solved so that the industry can start working again.

23. Self-Sufficiency Scheme is now being implemented in 69 blocks out of 376 brocks in the State at an estimated cost of about Rs. 43 crores., It is expected that the physical targets fixed for the first batch of 69 blocks will be achieved before the end of the current financial year., This scheme will be extended to additional 120 blocks during the next financial year., Preliminary arrangements are being made to determine the size of the programme and for fixing the targets and arriving at estimates. A High Power State Level Committee is also monitoring the progress of the Scheme.

24 The Food for Work programme now modified and restructured as fhe National Rural Employment Programme, will be implemented in the State with the utmost vigour to help the rural poor.

25. Government of India opined that it would be desirable to hold the elections to the Local Bodies after census work is completed; accordingly election wil be held after this work is over. These elections will be held at the earliest possible and the reins of Local Administration will be duly handed over to the democractically elected representatives of the people.

26. In the field of education, proposals for establishing two new Universities at Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli were already announced The legislations to that effect will be introduced shortly. Government is also endeavouring to establish 2 more Universities—a Tamil University and a Universe ty at Karaikudi—during this year itself.

27. With the co-operation of the National Institute of Oceanographyi under-sea archaelogical explorations in the Coramandal coast (i.e., east coast of Tamil Nadu) especially at Kaveripoompattinam is being undertaken by the State Department of Archaeology.

28. Government have recently taken over the management of the Pachaiayappa's Trust, in public interest, for a period of two years.

29. Madras City has been having its own peculiar problems, If the monsoons fail, even drinking water becomes scarce. In order to augment the City water-supply, Government has decided to bring drinking water from River Cauvery , from a point below Kattalai regulator, in Tiruchirappalli district. Chief Engineer has opined that this scheme would provide an additional quantity of 995 million litres of water per day to the City and can be completed in a period of five years. This will provide employment opportunities to about a lakh of persons every day during the construction period. The cost of the project is nearly Rs. 459 crores and the World Bank has shown interest in this scheme.

30. Quick clearance of traffic is another serious problem pertaining to Madras City. The State is actively pursuing with Government of India the proposaal for a Mass Rapid Transit System from Madras Beach to Luz at a tentative cost of over Rs. 60 crores.

31 . State Government has been pressing the Government of India for quite some time now, for introducing a third levelfeeder air service in the State, There are many centres of tourist, historic, cultural commercial and religious importance which are not covered by the Indian Airlines network. Recenly, it has been reported that North Eastern region will have the benefit of this third level air service in the course of this month. State Government hopes that Government of India would clear this proposal for Tamil Nadu also at the earliest possible time.

32. Prohibition as a measure is an important social reform. However, various views have been expressed even in this august House at various times. I would therefore request the Honourable Members to give their free and frank views on how best we can implement this beneficial measure and whether any rethinking on the policy itself is warranted.

33. The recent hike in the prices of petroleum products has been caused due to an international situation on which none in the country could do anything. Since the petroleum prices have gone up, a rise in the bus fare is inevitable. Government hopes that people of the State would appreciate the reasons for the increase in bus fare.

34. For effective implementation of any policy, it is essential to streamlin the administration. In pursuance of this policy, Government abolished the Board of Revenue last year. Since the system of part time Village Officers was out-moded and not fitting with

the modern needs of village administration, Government dicided as a next step to abolish all posts of part-time Village Officers. Accordingly, an ordinance was also promulgated by the Government. A Bill will be introduced in the ensuing session of the Legislature to replace this Ordinance.

35. For any Government to run its affairs the collection of revenue is an important function. Honourable Members are awarethat a certain section of persons is indulging in anti-social activities such as inciting the agricultirists not to pay land revnue, taxes or other amounts due or payable to Government. to local authorities to the State Electricity Board or to co-operative societies causing harm and hardship and thereby creating a sense of insecurity in the minds of those who discharge their dues. It had also been brought to the notice of the Government that the sponsors of the agitation were incting directly or indirectly the use of criminal force against the public servants. As this amounted to anti-State activities and was likely to impair the State apparatus and as it is the foremost duty of the State to ensure protecion to the law-abiding citizens. it was found necessary to take deterrent action against such anti-social elements, Therefore an Ordinance was promulgated in November 1980, to deal with them. A Bill to replace this Ordinance will be introduced in the Legislature shortly.

36. The Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Act, 1980 was enacted to offer debt-relief to persons whose annual house-hold income during the year end 31st December 1979 did not exceed Rs. 4,800. The intention of this Act was to provide relief only to the poor debtors. But certain provisions of the Act had been interpreted by the affluent classes to their benefit. To rectify this defect, the Act was amended by the Tamil Nadu Debt Relief (Amendment) Ordinance, 1980. A Bill to replace this Ordinance will be brought before the Legis'ature soon.

37. A certain section of affluent agriculturists has wantonly left their lands fallow or deliberately switched from cultivation of foodgrains to cultivation of firewood like casuarina, to avoid employing agricultual labourers at the wages prescribed by Government. This will lead to a grave situation of tremendous shortage of foodgrains in the not too distant a future, with the attendant disastrous consequence of throwing the millions of poor agricultural labourers into a predicament of daily starvation. To deal with this siutation, Government is contemplating-introduction of a suitable legislation for takeover of such lands for distribution among the landless.

38. To help such of those unemployed youth who have registered in the employment exchange and who belong to poor families, my Government will initiate action to give them preference in the matter of employ

ment opportunities so that at least one member in such a family gets a job. This is the first step to implement the policy of the Central, State Government to provide employment to atleast one individual per family.

39. The law and order and crime situation in the State have been generally satisfactory. It is heartening to note that instances of communal clashes and the connected violence have come down during the last year when compared with the previous years. The menace of extremists which is a major threat to peublic peace particularly in certain areas of North Arcot and Dharmapuri districts has been controlled to a considerable extent. My Government has decided to improve,bothquantitatively, and qualitatively the scientific aids necessary for the efficient discharge of duties and responsibilities enjoined on the Police Force.

40. Discipline and morale of the Police Force has been high due to the introduction of several welfare measures, notable among which are the supply of essential commodities at subsidised rates, sanction of risk allowance and creation of a Police Housing Corporation.

41. It is the accepted policy of the Government that atrocities on the weaker sections of the society, particularly on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be dealt with, with a firm hand. Recently Government have appointed a Senior Police Officer in the rank of Deputy Inspector-General of Police, specially to enforce effectively the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, which is meant for protecting the rights of the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Separate police units to deal exclusively with crimes that are committed on the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are functioning in the districts. Government will not countenance the crimial acts of anti-social elements who are a menace to the community. My Government will take severe action against the anti-social elements who indulge in these heinous deeds.

42. With the combined efforts of the people, the Government of Tamil Nadu and all of you, I am sure that the future will be bright and prosperous. Let us all work togeher in a spirit of friendship, understanding and co-operation to realise the laudable objectives of promoting the development of the State and improving the lot of the poor and the downtrodden.

Vanakkam.